

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A low-pressure mercury-vapor discharge lamp comprising:

a discharge vessel (10) enclosing, in a gastight manner, a discharge space (13) provided with a filling of mercury and an inert gas in a gastight manner, and the discharge vessel (10) comprising electrodes (20a; 20b) arranged in the discharge space (13) for maintaining a discharge in the discharge space (13), wherein the probability of failure of the low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp being substantially determined by one of the electrodes (20a), further wherein the electrodes are provided with an emitter material for supplying electrons to the discharge, the mass of the emitter material of the one electrode being 20% lower than the average mass of the emitter material of the electrodes.
2. (Currently Amended) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that, wherein upon igniting the low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp, ignition-related events corresponding to ignition behavior of the discharge lamp can give rise to ignition-related damage on influence the electrodes (20a, 20b), the lamp further comprising:

means for preventing the ignition-related events being substantially prevented from affecting the one electrode (20a).
3. (Currently Amended) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that wherein the low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp further comprising:

means for controlling the lamp, upon igniting, [[is]] to be substantially operated under DC current conditions and, during further operation, [[is]] to be substantially operated under AC current conditions.

4. (Currently Amended) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that wherein the low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp is operated on further comprising:

a ballast circuit, the ballast circuit comprising including a means for substantially keeping the an ignition of the lamp away from the one electrode (20a).

5. (Currently Amended) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that wherein the ballast circuit comprises a circuit assembly comprising a diode.

6. (Currently Amended) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that wherein the low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp further comprises a glow starter circuit comprising a circuit assembly comprising a diode.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Currently Amended) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that comprising:

a discharge vessel enclosing, in a gastight manner, a discharge space provided with the filling of mercury and an inert gas in a gastight manner, and

electrodes arranged in the discharge space for maintaining a discharge in the discharge space, wherein the probability of failure of the low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp being substantially determined by one of the electrodes, further wherein

the electrodes (20a, 20b) are provided with an emitter material for supplying electrons to the discharge, the content of barium, calcium and/or strontium in the emitter material of the one electrode (20a) being 20% lower than the average barium, calcium or strontium content in the emitter material of the electrodes (20a, 20b), respectively.

9. (Currently Amended) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the wherein a temperature of the one electrode (20a) is 20% lower than the average temperature of the electrodes (20a, 20b) under normal operating conditions of the lamp.

10. (Currently Amended) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that comprising:

a discharge vessel enclosing, in a gastight manner, a discharge space provided with the filling of mercury and an inert gas in a gastight manner, and
electrodes arranged in the discharge space for maintaining a discharge in the discharge space, wherein the probability of failure of the low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp being substantially determined by one of the electrodes, further wherein
the one electrode (20a) is surrounded by an electrode ring (22a), the electrode ring functioning as a cage of Faraday.

11. (Currently Amended) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that an antenna is provided in the vicinity of the one electrode (20a) for guiding away the discharge upon igniting the low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp.

12. (Original) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that the antenna comprises a bi-metal.